Ahamadabad. But the Director of Agriculture has already taken up the question, for demonstration purposes, of a model cattle stall to show how cattle should be kept and stall-fed. You cannot have large pastures all over Travancore because large pasture lands do not exist. As I said, farmers and cattle-owners should begin to realise that they are under an obligation to maintain their cattle and feed them and not turn them loose on the nearest weed and thorn-covered land to brouse on food that is unsuited to their consumption. I suggest that every farmer of the country set aside a portion of his estate to the cultivation of Napier grass or Guinea grass for the feeding of his cattle. That alone will produce an effect on the standard of the cattle of the State.

Then you also dwelt upon the need for settling people upon Government waste land on a nominal price and provide them each with a doctor, a carpenter and a teacher too. That is all very well, Mr. Kesari, in the case of a country with large waste lands and a population which has to be attracted to the land. But Travancore is not so. Our people rush to take up any block of land that becomes vacant for registry at competitive prices. The converse of the actual position of Travancore is what you advocate.

I think these are the more important departments you touched upon.

MEMBER: Excise Department,

DEWAN: Yes, you strongly urged Government to reduce the number of abkari shops by five every year. I hasten to assure you that idea occured to Government some years ago, and they have been reducing the number by five per cent every two years. The Government you see, have anticipated you.

178. Administrative reforms.

MR. A. P. SUBRAHMONYA IYER (*Member, Shencotta taluk*) said that the sub-jail system prevalent in British India should be introduced into Travancore so that the hardships now suffered by under-trial prisoners might be mitigated. He also suggested that agricultural income derived from British India which was assessed to land tax in British India should be exempted from income-tax in Travancore. Lastly, the system of registration and transfer of pattas by sub-registrars on conveyance of properties, which was prevalent in British India, should be introduced into Travancore.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subramonya Aiyar, the question of the custody and care of under-trial prisoners is now under consideration by the Commissioner of Police. But I do not think any change is possible in the manner you suggest, namely, that there should be honorary warders and laymen sentinels. Suitable arrangements are under contemplation.

In regard to exemption from payment of income tax of agricultural income derived from British India which is assessed to land tax in British

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India, I do not think I need detain you long in my reply. The only justification for exempting such agricultural income from income-tax is the fact that the same product has to pay land tax and income-tax, that is, a double collection in respect of the same property. That is not the case with what you instance. The Madras Government get land tax and the Travancore Government get income tax. As the money comes into the State, it is only fair that the Travancore Government should realise income-tax on it.

The third point of your representation is that *pokkuvaravu* should be carried out by Sub-Registrars, by the Registration Department instead of by the Revenue Department. I do not think such a drastic change is called for at the present moment. The present system of *pokkuvaravu* transfer is being carried out by the Revenue officers, and is entirely satisfactory.

179. Urgent necessity of constituting Village Panchayats under Regulation, VII of 1100, in the coast villages.

MR. M. P. MUTHIA PILLAI (*Member, Nominated*) said that as early as thirty years ago, the Government of Travancore had established self-governing institutions in urban areas by the formation of Town Improvement Committees. For the rural areas they had passed a regulation called the Village Panchayat Regulation, which was not, however, brought into effect yet. This Regulation should be given effect to at once and to begin with in the coastal villages.

These villages had, in the first place, from very olden days an institution akin in kind to the Village Panchayats contemplated under the Regulation. They had their own panchayats consisting of elders of villages under the leadership of parish priests, who settled the disputes between the villagers and attended to many other functions. There was a common village fund to which the villagers contributed. But these panchayats were not able to attend to all the needs of the villagers.

The villages were still wanting in good means of communication, in a good supply of drinking water, in the provision of schools and dispensaries etc. These could be effectively attended to only by means of panchayats formed under statute. Fish curing itself which, as already stated by the member in his former representation, was being very much hampered for want of proper facilities would thrive well if it was entrusted to Village Panchayats. The Village Panchayat Regulation should therefore be brought into operation in the coastal villages at once.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Muthia Pillai, on the question of bringing into operation rules under the Village Panchayat Regulation, those rules have been published in July last year for public criticism. They are now under the consideration of Government. And in connection with the final issue of rules, I will study the effect they have upon your existing village bodies of self-help under your existing system. I quite agree with you that a great deal can be done, and should be

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